

overseas in Japan for 2 of those years as a court stenographer, he took the time to learn the language, culture, and customs—demonstrating an appreciation for serving people and a knack for communication that would lend itself to Wally's own work and character years later.

Wally tells everyone he meets that he has what money cannot buy. He is revered as one of the most generous and selfless individuals who has devoted his life to giving back, not just to the community, but to others who gave him the opportunity to be successful in life. Wally lent his time and energy to over 50 nonprofits and has been a member of the Lions Club for over 40 years. He sent dozens of children to summer camp, often paying for their experience himself. Since 1969, Wally has helped expand the local Toys for Tots program, where he has donated gifts and toys to ensure a joyful holiday season for all children.

Wally Reney embodies the true spirit of the American dream, and, in turn, has encouraged countless others to achieve their own dreams. Wally has improved the quality of life in the Granite State and epitomizes the great New Hampshire tradition of being a good neighbor. I am extraordinarily proud to recognize and celebrate Wally. I wish him the best for a happy and healthy retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO RALPH SHOWER

● Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I wish to honor Ralph Shower of St. Louis, MO, on his upcoming 100th birthday on July 6, 2015. As a dedicated family man, heroic World War II veteran, and successful business professional, he has made his family, community, and the entire State of Missouri proud to call him one of our own.

Born and raised in St. Louis, Mr. Shower attended Soldan High School, where he participated in varsity track and field. His dad ran a hotel and restaurant supply business, and in his younger years, he worked with his father at the family business.

As mentioned before, Mr. Shower honorably served in the U.S. Army's 517 Signal Company, 17th Airborne Division, during World War II. While serving, he suffered from serious injuries in a paratrooper glider accident from which he fully recovered, and he has continued to live a full and healthy life. To this day, he has remained actively involved in his community through the local veterans service organizations.

After leaving the Army, Mr. Shower began a career in public relations management, serving various charity organizations, including the Leukemia Guild of Missouri and the City of Hope Hospital in Durate, CA.

Even with his military and professional successes, Shower has always prioritized his family above all else. He and Ethel, his late wife of 70 years, had three children. Michael Shower, his

son, held an esteemed position as the executive secretary and counselor to the executive director of UNICEF up until his passing in 1994. Mr. Shower has two beloved daughters, Suzanne Shower and Michelle Proctor, along with two granddaughters and five great-granddaughters.

Forty-seven of Mr. Shower's relatives will be traveling to the St. Louis area to celebrate his long and accomplished life. It sounds like it will be a truly special celebration.

Ralph Shower has touched the lives of so many people over the past century, and his service to his country and community deserves our recognition and appreciation. I congratulate Ralph Shower for his service to his family, community, and this great country. Happy Birthday!●

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM E. "BRIT" KIRWAN

● Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, as you know, when Senators converse in the cloakroom between votes, we often claim bragging rights—who represents the State with the best crab cake, which State has the best hiking trails, and which baseball team will win the American League East division for example. Everyone likes to chime in and claim his or her State as the best in some regard. But if anyone mentions leaders in higher education, the conversation just stops. Every Senator knows what the senior Senator from Maryland and I are going to say—Dr. William E. "Brit" Kirwan. That ends the competition right there. Today I wish to honor this man who can rightfully be called one of the Nation's most respected leaders in higher education.

After 51 years in the field of education—spending 25 years as a faculty member and administrator at the University of Maryland, College Park, president of both the University of Maryland, College Park and The Ohio State University, and now as the chancellor of the University System of Maryland for the past 12 years—Dr. Kirwan will be retiring on June 30, 2015.

Under Dr. Kirwan's extraordinary leadership, the University System of Maryland has thrived. Our State's universities are among the best in the Nation, with cutting-edge research programs which support the work of private businesses and Federal agencies located nearby, internationally renowned academic programs, and diverse student bodies. Dr. Kirwan also paved the way for innovative solutions to cut the university system's costs while improving quality, expanding educational access for minorities, and initiating other successful strategies, such as the University System of Maryland's "Closing the Achievement Gap" program.

Outside of Maryland, Dr. Kirwan's expertise has been sought by Presidents of both parties and the U.S. Congress to offer his input on national higher education efforts. Even after he

announced his retirement, Dr. Kirwan cochaired the Task Force on Federal Regulation of Higher Education, and currently serves as the cochair of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics; chair of the College Board's Commission on Access, Admissions, and Success in Education; a member of the Business Higher Education Forum and as chair of the National Research Council Board of Higher Education and the Workforce.

His work is not without recognition by the citizens of our State. Among his many accolades but not an exhaustive list after his numerous years of service, Dr. Kirwan is the recipient of the TIAA-CREF Theodore M. Hesburgh Award for Leadership, the Carnegie Corporation Leadership Award, the 16th recipient of the Maryland House of Delegates Speaker's Medallion in recognition of his contributions to the State of Maryland, the Maryland Senate First Citizen Award in recognition of his ongoing commitment and service to our State, the Lifetime Achievement Award in Education from the Tech Council of Maryland, the Champion of Children Award from the Maryland State Department of Education, the Regional Visionary Award of the Greater Baltimore Committee, and the Public Service Award from the Maryland Chamber of Commerce.

As impressive as Dr. Kirwan's resume may be, it does not define who he is as an individual. Dr. Kirwan is a man of integrity and loyalty who maintains a passion for ensuring access to a quality education for all. He has been visionary in all things academic and believer in the well-being of young men and women. I would also like to thank Dr. Kirwan's family for the support they have given to him throughout his academic career and for allowing him to so greatly share his talents with the people of Maryland.

Dr. Kirwan's efforts have left the University System of Maryland and the State of Maryland both stronger academically and better prepared to educate students for the challenges of tomorrow. He has made social justice a genuine priority, which has elevated the university system even further. Through his vision and actions to establish the then Center for Academic Innovation at the University of Maryland, College Park, and the legacy of the newly commissioned William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation will advance the priorities of Dr. Kirwan to address barriers to a college education for decades to come.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Kirwan on his well-deserved retirement and thanking Dr. Kirwan for his service and commitment to higher education.●

NATIONAL ROOFING WEEK

● Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the National Roofing Contractors Association, NRCA, headquartered in Rosemont, IL,